

Alabama Medicaid 1st Look Program

After a year of collaboration and planning, the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Alabama Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (through our oral health liaison, Ric Simpson, DMD), along with the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), has successfully worked with the Alabama Medicaid Agency to add coverage of oral health risk assessment and fluoride varnishing in the pediatric medical home for children from six months to three years of age. This approval makes Alabama the 23rd state in the United States to have such a program, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) Oral Health Initiative. Effective January 2009, Medicaid now pays primary care providers who have been trained in oral health risk assessment for dental codes D0145 (oral exam <3 years old, counseling) and D1206 (topical fluoride application) under certain limitations. Pediatric providers, along with any clinical staff in their offices who apply the varnishes and perform risk assessments, must complete the AAP's "The Oral Health Risk Assessment Training Program for Pediatricians and Other Child Health Professionals" and pass the post-test in the module to meet the Medicaid requirements of being a **1st Look Provider**. The training includes oral health risk assessment, education on performing anticipatory guidance/counseling, demonstration of fluoride varnish application, and information on recommendations for a dental home. Training has already been provided to pediatricians and family physicians at their annual meetings, and additional local trainings will be provided throughout the state by dentists trained through the Alabama Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

1st Look Program by the numbers:

• Number of projected Medicaid 1 st Look Provider slots (2008 - 2010)	250
• Number of pediatricians trained at ALAAP meeting in September 2008	67
• Number of physicians trained at the AAFP meeting in December 2008	15
• Number of dentists trained in a Train the Trainer module (Jan 2009)	35
• Number of 1 st Look Providers approved by Medicaid as of Feb 2009	54

Upcoming training opportunities:

April 2009	AL Chapter-AAP Spring Meeting and Pediatric Update
June 2009	Additional Train-the-Trainer session at the Alabama Dental Association annual meeting
TBA	Local trainings of primary care providers by trained dentists